

HOLBROOKS also, in the first act of the drama which then seemed to be its conclusion. The recrudescence of the feud has resulted in the extinction, total or partial, of the LOGANS, who also appear to have been admitted to the feud without much inquiry into their qualifications, and now of the TOLLIVERS. But there is no reason to suppose that in a community in which murder appears to be the only popular amusement the feud should not go on while there are two able-bodied men left to keep it going. All callings and classes appear to be engaged in it, with one conspicuous exception. We have not observed that any ministers of the Gospel have figured either as victims or as avengers. This is remarkable in so pious a region; but possibly murder is not regarded as dignified for a clergyman, and is therefore left to the laity. On the other hand, persons connected with the administration of justice are eminent in the prosecution of feuds. CRAIG TOLLIVER was a magistrate, who did not bear the shotgun in vain. MARTIN was a County Clerk, and another leader in the vendetta was the Sheriff. For some years, indeed, the killing of Judges has been highly fashionable in the homicidal circles of Kentucky.

The serious question recurs and remains, what the people of Kentucky are going to do about this. They must be aware that a community in which a band of assassins can control the politics and the society of a whole county for ten years together is no more entitled to be called civilized than if it were composed of South Sea cannibals or Chiricahua Apaches. It is a disgrace to every Kentuckian, from the Governor of the State down, that this murderous warfare should have been allowed to go on without the execution of a single murderer according to law; but scarcely any Kentuckian of position or influence seems to feel it as a disgrace.

#### THE KENTUCKY VENDETTA.

The death by violence in Rowan County, Ky., of several TOLLIVERS, including the Judge, CRAIG TOLLIVER, whose name is more or less vaguely known to the readers of newspapers, is hailed as the end of a vendetta that has been going on for ten years or more. These congratulations may be premature. It is characteristic of the Southern vendetta that no man knows, after it has been in progress for a few years, how it arose or what it is about. A brief history of the origin and progress of the Rowan County feud is given in our news columns, but it is impossible to give its details in anything short of a serious historical work. It is evident, however, that killing each other has been a principal industry of the inhabitants of Rowan County, and that the feud ultimately came from some reflections cast by one HOLBROOK on the honor of a defaulter and horse thief named MARTIN. This seems to have been a matter for MARTIN and HOLBROOK, or at the utmost for the MARTINS and HOLBROOKS, but at the very beginning the UNDERWOODS, who do not seem to have been connected with either party by blood or marriage, were let in "on the ground floor of the enterprise," and the rate of mortality among them was for some years very high. That the avenger of blood in Kentucky need not be a kinsman of the victim is well settled, but it has heretofore been held that he must be able to show some tangible interest in the deceased in order to constitute himself his champion. A more liberal spirit has evidently prevailed in this feud. Everybody who wished to engage in it has been allowed to do so, without authenticating or even presenting any claims, and has forthwith acquired the right to shoot and be shot at, just as if he were the son of somebody who had been shot at before. Political, and for all we know denominational, differences have been accepted as entitling a man who was a Republican and a Presbyterian, for example, to take a shot at a man who was a Methodist and a Democrat. The TOLLIVERS themselves came into this interesting and complicated feud as Washington "society" goes to diplomatic receptions—without any invitation or any assurance that their services were required. The first TOLLIVER who enlisted had no other pretense of a claim to shoot MARTIN than that he was a friend of a candidate to whom MARTIN had been opposed. After MARTIN had snubbed this TOLLIVER for his interference by killing him, the other TOLLIVERS naturally came in. At first they showed the disposition of law-abiding citizens by proposing to catch MARTIN and lynch him in a regular and formal way, but more violent counsels prevailed, and they finally riddled him with buckshot in a perfectly informal manner while he was under the charge of the Deputy Sheriffs. Reprisals were made by the friends of MARTIN upon any available TOLLIVERS, and it appears that by the skirmish of yesterday the TOLLIVERS of arms-bearing age have been extirpated. This is the Five Forks of the Tolliver-Martin feud, but it remains to be seen whether this is itself any more than an episode in the great vendetta which began with the killing of UNDERWOOD in 1877. The UNDERWOODS were all satisfactorily killed off, and apparently the